

**Amendments to the Specification:**

*Please insert a new paragraph in between paragraphs [0014] and [0015], and prior to the Brief Description of Drawings, as shown below:*

The integration and arbitration of the driving conditions includes determining at least one of several powertrain operating variables and determining at least one additional temporary smoothness factor as a function of the at least one of the several operating variables. Each smoothness factor corresponds to a smoothness between a maximum and a minimum. A temporary smoothness factor with a value corresponding to least smoothness is used when the engine is in a start-up mode. Provision is made, according to one aspect of the invention, for adjusting engine start smoothness based on selected engine operating variables using a calibrated relationship between the temporary smoothness factor and the selected engine operating variables.